UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/L.3
13 August 1997

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection of
Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 2

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Mr. Bossuyt, Mrs. Daes, Mr. Diaz Uribe, Mr. Eide, Mr. Joinet, Mrs. Palley and Mr. Weissbrodt: draft resolution

1997/... Situation of human rights in Algeria

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Algeria is a party,

Noting, in the light of resolution 1997/22 of 11 April 1997 of the Commission on Human Rights, that Algeria is not included in the list of countries under consideration by the Commission under public procedures (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/33, annex),

Deeply concerned by the numerous reports from a large number of reliable sources attesting that, regardless of human dignity, armed groups of religious extremists, who act in flagrant violation of the principles of tolerance of Islam, are terrorising civilian populations in order to force them to support their cause, by resorting, inter alia, to summary executions, the cruelty of which adds futile suffering to the fate of innocent victims of decapitation or throat cutting, including old people, women and children,

Recalling its resolution 1996/20 of 29 August 1996 in which the Sub-Commission reaffirmed its "unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism regardless of their motivation, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed",

Recalling also that, in its resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985, the General Assembly stated that it was mindful of the necessity of maintaining and safeguarding the basic rights of the individual in accordance with the relevant human rights instruments and generally accepted international standards,

Increasingly concerned, in this connection, at reports indicating that, going beyond the requirements of the fight against terrorism, violations of human rights are being committed more and more frequently by certain sectors of the security forces,

Noting that the civilian population, under constant pressure and in the grip of terror, is forced in anguish to choose its side, is taken hostage and, as a consequence, is exposed, whatever action it takes, to the risk of reprisals by the different actors in the conflict,

1. Condemns with the utmost severity the odious crimes committed in a paroxysm of barbarity by terrorist groups who call themselves "Islamists" and requests that international cooperation against their accomplices abroad be intensified;

2. Urgently calls on the Algerian Government to take action in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, in particular, to prohibit blind anti-terrorist practices which can only be the source of grave violations of human rights;

3. Calls with insistence on the international community to break the wall of silence surrounding the tragedy being experienced by the Algerian people and to express its solidarity with them;

4. Consequently recommends to the Commission on Human Rights that it consider at its fifty-fourth session the question of the situation of human rights in Algeria, taking into account the exceptional seriousness of that situation;

5. Decides, should the Commission on Human Rights not take this action, to consider this question further at its fiftieth session under the same agenda item.